

October 2016



MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

# The Vennell-a Scoop

## Change is in the air like never before...

Can you remember what it was like to fly on airplanes prior to September 11, 2001? Or what about how we used to mail actual letters to our family members when we wanted to communicate in a way other than the telephone. I have even recently reminisced about the television our family had when I was in elementary school... 13 inch black and white with two dials. I jokingly talked about the time when a UHT channel arrived in my home town of Amarillo and we got to use that second dial with all of those tiny clicks. Now I know that many of you may not know what I am talking about but you are very much aware of the fact that change is inevitable and technology cannot be stopped from getting more complex while at the same time hopefully becoming higher quality and much more efficient.

As MAF continues to minister in some very isolated areas of the world, the technology continues to change. While we used to fly very simple airplanes with little complexities and costing less than \$15,000, we are now flying glass cockpit (computerized) turbine-powered aircraft that cost more than \$2 million. These blessed resources require us to manage them far more efficiently and with great quality. With individual complex components costing into the \$\$\$thousands, we have to be careful and have great diligence. MAF has decided to utilize a global aircraft management system (AMS) in order to achieve this.

I have been entrusted with the responsibility to see this global project to completion and this will explain why you may not have heard from the Vennell family in a while. With a fleet of 50 live aircraft, including 11 different models, many configurations, placed in 15 bases, 11 different countries and a 70-year-old organizational culture, this has proven to be challenging. We have a team of individuals who have been working since January to input all of the needed data for aircraft inspections, inventory, fleet descriptions and all that encompasses our complex environment.

This work is just about to culminate in the needed training on the system with the testing of the software and hopefully in the first week of December, the MAF maintenance world will come alive and be digital. It sounds so appealing and yet unattainable but with the Lord's help and your prayers we will be successful. Please do put a few dates on your calendar... 3 weeks' worth of training in India at the end of October with 21 of our senior mechanics from all over the world. The entire month of November as well while we put in the latest (live) data and then December 5<sup>th</sup> as we begin a new era in serving our Lord with these amazing tools. New initiatives that are built on quality and efficiency. Efficiency because time is life and people must hear the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ because it is the Power of God to Salvation! Thank you for your vital partnership.

## What is new in our house?

...teenage drivers, that is what is new in our house. The time has come and we have not only one but two teenage drivers in the Vennell household. So many of you can remember, like we do, when the "little dippers" were born and you have watched them grow up. The Lord is making beautiful women and as they continue to grow and mature, we continue to ask that you pray for them all. Lauren is now a junior and Lydia is a sophomore. Natalie is an eighth grader with Courtney rounding out our middle school attenders as a seventh grader. Carson is the proud and lonely elementary student as he learns as much as he can in the fourth grade.

So much has changed with them all as they have left their home in Africa and have begun to adapt to the challenges of the modern, materialistic society that is largely focused on itself. We each have a burden before us to keep our kids focused on their Savior and others. As they grow and have the opportunities to have their faith stretched and their walk challenged, we covet your prayers for them. With so much of their life on the African continent, we want them to be sensitive to the needs around them, and we are praying for their boldness.

## What is an Air Carrier Certificate?

Back in the spring of 2015 I endeavored to help MAF acquire an Air Carrier Certificate. Now this might sound like something a mission agency should not have but it is the key to opening doors of service for the future of our ministry. Much of the aviation industry around the world is being heavily influenced by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). This influence is trying to help the developing countries of the world to meet the increasing demands of safety as it relates to the people movement by air. In many places around the world they lack the oversight capacity within their government like we have with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) here in the US.

We were successful in gaining an Air Carrier Certificate and along with the Aircraft Management System project, I have the privilege of serving as the deputy director of operations of this additional new era in the ministry of MAF. Please pray that we will be wise stewards of what God has entrusted to us as we continue to serve the most isolated people of the world.



*I was standing on the rooftop overlooking a valley full of one of the most isolated people groups of central Asia. MAF will be using this air carrier certificate to reach this valley and others into the future.*

## Pictures of our blessings right now...



*Lauren, Lydia, Natalie, Courtney and Carson on the first day of school this year.*

As Tonya and I think about how the Lord has blessed us through the years, you are looking at 5 blessings right above this paragraph. We are also reminded daily about the blessing that you and your churches are to us as we seek to serve the Lord through the ministry of Mission Aviation Fellowship. After 18 years of service in MAF I never thought I would be at the home office for this length of time. It is only through the grace of the Lord that He continues to show us that our work for Him in MAF is not finished yet. Working with all of the programs around the world keeps me focused on trying to meet the needs of this global ministry. While our influence in Kenya was felt more by our local team and the people of Kenya and South Sudan, we trust what the Lord has us doing now will be felt in all of the MAF programs around the world as we look to meet the demands of this dynamically changing environment. Thank you again for all of your prayers and support.

Blessings,

*Tim and Tonya*

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